Hanover Nov 30th 1838

Dear Sir

The Society of Inquiry of this place wishing to open a correspondence with yours have authorized me to write to you to that effect.

The object of our Soc. is discover and enforce the principles of moral duty by cultivating a spirit of inquiry, and by collecting information upon moral and religious subjects and enterprizes.

We meet statedly — every two weeks at which meetings two or more persons previously appointed read productions upon subjects agreeable to the object of the Soc. Our number is yet small and our means of collecting information comparatively limited

You will highly favour us by answering the following inquiries. What is the precise object of your Soc? Are your efforts chiefly or entirely directed to gaining information respecting the benevolent enterprises of the day; or is the investigation of all subjects of moral and religious character included in the object of your Soc? How often do your meetings occur? What is the plan of exercises in meetings? What interest is felt in its duties? What number is connected with it?

Are all, or chiefly all in the Seminary members?
What number of your former members are now laboring as missionaries in foreign fields? If any, what number have gone within the last year? What is the present state of religious feeling in the institution with which you are connected? What the missionary spirit prevailing? How many at present in the Sem. who expect to labour personally among the heathen?

By answering any or all the above inquiries, and by affording any other information you may think will be valuable and interesting to us you will both gratify & profit our association.

In respect to the state of religious feeling among us, have only to confess it is very far beneath the privileges we enjoy. Here is not that singleness of purpose — that entire consecration to the service of the great Head of the Church — that becomes Christians even in the ordinary walks of life; much less do we possess that holiness of heart — that supreme love to God which should even characterize candidates for the fearfully responsible office of the Gospel ministry. Can say with sorrow of heart — that it is not with us as in days past when "the candle of the Lord shone bright about us"

The alluring vanities of earth, have imperceptably stole the affections from the proper object. Canker-like they have preyed upon the vitals of Christianity till scarcely naught else is left save the fair form itself. This I think is true to a greater or less

(turn over)

Ans'd Jan. 26th 1839

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Society of Inquiry
Theological Sem-
Princeton
New Jersey

Ans[d] Jan. 26[th] 1859

extent with the whole Western Church. Dear brethren is it so with you? Or are you rejoicing in the presence and blessing of God? Is your communion sweet as it once was — your intercourse as delightful and soul satisfying. Would that it were so with us. Then could we rejoice with you and receive in some measure a foretaste of that joy which is unspeakable. But while without the reviving influences of Gods spirit contrition of soul becometh us.

And now in view of the apathy that prevails over the church — of her difficulties — her extensive destitutions — her affecting calls for more faithful and devoted labourers both at home and abroad — in view of all her wants and interests are we not more perpingly called to more earnest and believing prayer — and to a more unqualified dedication of ourselves to the work of preparing for the deeply solemn office to which we are looking forward. That you may be truly devoted to the great work of saving souls, and that you may be abundantly successful in this work is our sincere desire.

Please answer as soon as convenient. Direct to Society of Inquiry, Hanover Ia.

Yours Affectionately James A. Miller
Cor. Secty S.